

PATENT
 Custom r No. 22,852
 Attorney Dock t No. 6652.0456-00

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Michel GARRAIT et al.

Application No.: 09/350,152

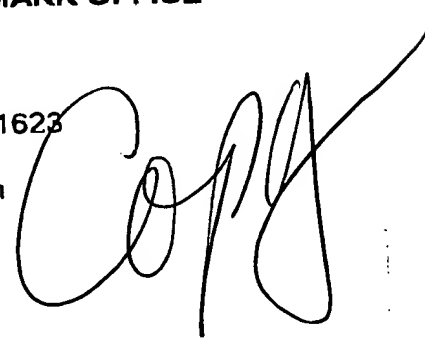
Filed: July 9, 1999

For: PROCESS FOR THE
 PREPARATION OF
 HYDROXYMETHYLBUTYRIC
 ACID

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
 Washington, DC 20231

Group Art Unit: 1623

Examiner: T. Oh



Sir:

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 U.S.C. 1.116

In reply to the final Office Action dated August 23, 2002, the period for reply having been extended for one month by a request for extension and fee payment filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application, without prejudice, as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

16. A process according to claim 15, wherein the molar quantity of sulphuric acid relative to the 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyronitrile is between 0.7 and 0.85.

17. A process according to claim 15, wherein the medium of the hydrating step (a) contains less than 5% by weight of 2-hydroxy-4-methylthiobutyric acid.

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